

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 SSC-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 CU-02
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FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5468

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 0218

E.O. 11652: GDS
TOAGS: PGOV, ELAB, HO
SUBJECT: NAMING OF NEW LABMIN

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 0094

1. LIC. ADALBERTO DISCUA RODRIGUEZ HAS BEEN NAMED TO SUCCEED
LIC. ENRIQUE FLORES VALERIANO AS LABMIN. EX-LABMIN FLORES WAS FIRED
BY CHIEF OF STATE MELGAR LAST WEEK. DISCUA PREVIOUSLY WORKED IN THE
LABOR MINISTRY; HIS LAST JOB THERE WAS DIRECTOR GENERAL OF LABOR
IN 1971. DURING THE LAST FIVE YEARS, DISCUA HAS BEEN A LEGAL ADVISOR
TO THE CENTRAL BANK. HE IS A MEMBER OF THE NATIONALIST PARTY.

2. THE NAMING OF DISCUA AS LABMIN HAS RECEIVED A GOOD RECEPTION
FROM THE TRADITIONAL DEMOCRATIC LEADERSHIP OF THE HONDURAN LABOR
MOVEMENT. HE IS KNOWN TO THEM AS A MODERATE WHO WILL IMPARTIALLY
ADMINISTER THE MINISTRY AND THE LABOR CODE. THE COMMUNIST-
CONTROLLED UNIONS, LED BY SITRATERCO (UNITED BRANDS UNION) AND
SUTRASFCO (STANDARD FRUIT UNION), HELD A MEETING AT SITRATERCO
HEADQUARTERS ON JANUARY 9, TO PROTEST THE FIRING OF
EX-LABMIN FLORES AS A MOVE TO THE RIGHT ON THE PART OF THE GOH.
DISCUA, THOUGH NOT YET NAMED AS LABMIN, WAS MENTIONED BY NAME
AS HAVING BEEN DIRECTOR GENERAL OF LABOR UNDER A "REACTIONARY"
LABMIN. THE COMMUNIST UNIONS ISSUED A CALL FOR A LABOR
DEMONSTRATION IN TEGUCIGALPA, AT AN UNSPECIFIED DATE, TO
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PRESSURE THE GOH TO MAINTAIN A PROGRESSIVE LINE. (THAT
DEMONSTRATION IS UNLIKELY TO TAKE PLACE.) THE UNION LEADERSHIP
AT THAT MEETING, INCLUDING THAT OF THE CGT (CHRISTIAN
DEMOCRATIC TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION), ALSO CALLED FOR AN EARLY
MEETING WITH CHIEF OF STATE MELGAR TO DISCUSS THEIR
COMPLAINTS. THE OFFICIAL STATEMENT AFTER THE MEETING ACCUSED
THE TRADITIONAL DEMOCRATIC UNION LEADERSHIP, AIFLD, AND THE

EMBASSY OF HAVING A HAND IN FLORES' DISMISSAL.

3. ACTUALLY, THE TRADITIONAL DEMOCRATIC LEADERSHIP DID APPROACH CHIEF OF STATE MELGAR ABOUT FLORES' DISMISSAL, CALLING IT A "NATIONAL NECESSITY." OBDULIO CACERES AND VICTOR ARTILES, PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE CTH (CONFEDERATION OF HONDURAN WORKERS) DISCUSSED THAT, AMONG OTHER SUBJECTS, WITH MELGAR IN EARLY DECEMBER 1976. THEY BELIEVED THAT FLORES WAS SO PARTIAL TO THE COMMUNISTS WITHIN THE LABOR MOVEMENT THAT IT WOULD JEOPARDIZE THE CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF A DEMOCRATIC LABOR MOVEMENT IN HONDURAS.

4. BIO DATA AND A PICTURE OF DISCUA WILL FOLLOW ASAP.
BECKER

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Message Attributes

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